

lated from the "Annales des Sciences Naturelles." The Secretary also communicated to the Society some notes on *Lythrum Salicaria*, remarking that he had observed this plant in several stations in the neighbourhood of London, with the leaves variably situated on the stem; and exhibited specimens in which the plant had *alternate opposite*, and *leaves three in a whorl*. These observations, together with other peculiarities noticed by Mr. Dennes, led to an interesting discussion. Mr. Daniel Cooper exhibited and offered for distribution to the Members several of the rarer plants found about Reigate, Surrey, which he had that day expressly collected for the purpose; and stated that it was the intention of several of the Members to collect in a similar way the rarer plants of the vicinity of London, and exhibit them at the monthly nights of meeting throughout the summer. Mr. Cooper called the attention of the Members to specimens of *Paris Quadrifolia*, of which there were plants having from three to seven leaves upon the table, but in no instance had he observed more than five portions of the calyx, and not, as recorded by some authors, a division of the calyx for each leaf found upon the stem. Mr. Gray noticed a peculiarity in the flower of the *Adoxa Moschatellina*; and expressed his approbation of the plan of procuring living specimens of the rarer plants for distribution at the summer monthly meetings, as it would enable many of the Members to examine and make such observations upon the plants as they might think necessary, and who might be prevented from collecting them at the proper period. Among Mr. Cooper's collection were specimens of the early Orchideous plants, comprising *Ophrys apifera*, *O. muscifera*, *Orchis ustulata*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Listera ovata*, *Aceras Anthropophora*, &c. Specimens of *Leucogum Æstivum* were also exhibited by the Secretary, which were obtained from the old station in Greenwich marshes, opposite Blackwall.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## TWO RECENT SPECIES OF TRIGONIA.

The *Trigonia* of Van Diemen's Land, first described by Lamarck (of which we have an original specimen in the British Museum, presented by that justly celebrated naturalist), and the one discovered by Mr. Stutchbury, in Port Jackson, New Holland, have been considered the same species. The series of specimens from the first

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locality, which I have received from Mr. Ronald Gunn, proves most decidedly, what I had long suspected, that they are very different species, and they may be characterized as follows :

*Trigonia margaritacea*, Lam. Syst. Anim. sans Vertèb.—Shell rather compressed, with 20 or 23 rather narrow nodulose radiating ribs; the hinder ribs very compressed, all excepting the front ribs wide apart. Hab. Van Diemen's Land. Ronald Gunn, Esq.

*Trigonia Lamarckii*, Gray.—Shell rather ventricose, solid, with 20 to 26 narrow flat-topped nodulose radiating ribs; the ribs of the hinder slope, narrow, rather crowded; convex, ribs all close together and nodulose. Hab. New Holland, Port Jackson. Mr. Stutchbury.

Varies with the inside white, salmon-coloured, yellow, or purple bronze.

The young states of these two species are so very different that it is astonishing they could have ever been confounded; the Van Diemen's Land species in all its stages of growth is about twice as large as that from New Holland.—J. E. GRAY.

#### THE SEXES OF LIMPETS. PATELLE.

The *Patellæ* have generally been considered as hermaphrodite, but this is certainly not the case, as I have remarked several years ago. But notwithstanding repeated examinations, however, I have not been able to discover any external difference in the animal, except a slight variation in colour, nor is there any difference in the size and form of the shells. In the autumn they are easily distinguished if an incision be made along the right side of the foot, when the males exhibit a white milky glairy fluid; and the females, which before they are cut generally have a darker foot, a great quantity of round eggs (the size and appearance differing according to their state of development) swimming in a transparent viscid fluid. This cannot be the two states of the same fluid, for after examining hundreds of specimens, of different sizes and at various seasons, I have never been able to find them in any intermediate state, although I have found the egg in various stages of development. In their early state they are dark and opaque, but in the later they become more transparent. I have never been so fortunate as to find the fœtal state of the animal, showing the primitive form of the shell; but this state may often be seen attached to the tip of the young specimens.

The larger limpets often form on the chalk, cavities the size of their shell, as I have noticed in my paper on the structure of shells, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1833.—J. E. GRAY.